

Unit 13. Upper Nushagak and Chichitnok Rivers Corridor

Background

Land Status. Most of the unit is owned or selected by the state. Eight Native allotments are located in the unit.

Miles of River. The main channel of the Nushagak River extends for 92 miles. The main channel of the Chichitnok River extends for 31 miles.

Access. Accessibility is moderate for motorboats in lower portions of the rivers; access is infeasible in upper portions. Accessibility is generally difficult for airplanes, although a few landing sites exist. The unit is far from major airports.

Existing Development. Five cabins are located within the unit. Three sites in the unit have been used as commercial camps.

Fisheries. The unit provides important king salmon and chum spawning habitat and excellent fishing for freshwater fish.

Subsistence fishing use is low. Sport fishing use is currently low, mostly commercial, and increasing. Commercial use is mostly based out of camps in the unit.

Wildlife. Moose density is moderate; caribou density is seasonally low to abundant; brown bear density is high.

Subsistence hunting use is moderate in the fall and low during the winter. Sport hunting use is moderate for brown bear by guided nonresidents. Resident and nonresident sport hunting for caribou and moose is low but increasing.

Trails and Easements. None

Other Values. Scenic values are high because of landscape diversity and good views of nearby highlands. Floating use on the Nushagak is currently low, but increasing.

Management Intent

Primitive use experience.

Management Guidelines

Long-term Use (longer than 14 consecutive days at one site)

Permanent facilities	Prohibited.
Temporary facilities	Prohibited.
Trapping cabins	Prohibited.
Boat storage	Prohibited.
Airstrip development	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Docks: permanent	Prohibited.
temporary	Prohibited.
Other uses	May be allowed (case-by-case).

Short-term Use (14 consecutive days or less at one site)

See Short-term Uses (generally allowed uses) in Chapter 2.

Other Guidelines Specific to this Unit

- U13.1 Airstrip Development. Airstrip development may be allowed if there is no evidence of the airstrip from the river and if there is a demonstrated significant public need. See Recommendations for this Unit (below).
- U13.2 Long-term Uses Associated with Mineral/Oil and Gas Activity. For long-term uses associated with mineral and oil and gas exploration and development, see Chapter 2 guideline.
- U13.3 Siting Criteria. Long-term uses should be sited out of view from the main channels of the Nushagak River and Chichitnok River.
- U13.4 Renewal of Existing Personal Use Cabin Permit. A personal use cabin permit was granted in this unit in 1986. Renewal of the existing personal use cabin permit may be allowed in accordance with 11 AAC 65.040.

Public Use Sites

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on maps in Appendix C.

- Site 19 Campsite on the east bank of the Nushagak River, 2 miles north of the mouth of the King Salmon River.

Site 20 Campsite at the mouth of the Chichitnok River. There is a pending Native allotment in this site.

Recommendations for this Unit

An airstrip should be developed in the upper reaches of the Nushagak River to provide public access for floating.